

Mr. C. F. Underwood's collection, consisting "of 3,365 skins, representing about 611 species and subspecies," recently purchased by Mr. John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Mass. The collection contains many specimens identified by the late Osbert Salvin, and is rich in young birds in nestling plumage. "The dates on the labels cover nearly a score of years and the collection is the result of Underwood's laying aside the better things secured by him during this period." It is thus fortunate that this important collection was secured by Mr. Thayer in the interest of American ornithologists.

Besides the new records for Costa Rica and the critical comment on various species, eight species and subspecies are described as new. In his remarks on the various forms of *Stelgidopteryx*, Mr. Bangs emphatically reaffirms his "belief that there is *but one* species of *Stelgidopteryx*."—J. A. A.

Clarke 'On the Birds of the Weddell and adjacent Seas.'—In his third paper on the 'Ornithological Results of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition' Mr. Clarke¹ deals with the bird-life of the Antarctic Ocean southward of the 60th parallel of south latitude, or of the Weddell Sea and adjacent waters. Following an itinerary of the 'Scotia' in these high southern waters, is a summary of the leading ornithological observations, in which it is stated that four species of birds were added to the short list of nine previously known to have occurred south of the Arctic Circle, these additions including the Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura* = *paradisæa*). "A specially important ornithological feature of these voyages of the 'Scotia,' says Mr. Clarke, "was the presence in the Polar Sea of a number of species of Petrels far beyond the southern limits of their breeding areas. This seems to indicate that at the close of the southern summer numbers of Hutton's Sooty Albatrosses (*Phaethria cornicoides*), Cape Petrels (*Daption capensis*), Giant Petrels (*Ossifraga gigantea*), Antarctic Petrels (*Thalassacea antarctica*), Giant Silver Petrels (*Priocella glacialisoides*), Blue Petrels (*Halobæna carula*), and *Æstreclata brevirostris*) cross the Antarctic Circle and sojourn among the polar ice ere they retreat northwards to pass the winter in more genial oceanic resorts. It is possible, however, that some of these visitors to the far south are non-breeding birds, and, if so, they may have spent the entire summer there. The Tubinares are, as is well known, great wanderers, but these very remarkable southern incursions are, perhaps, to be explained by the extraordinary abundance of food to be found in the waters of the far south in the summer and autumn, which allures some of the birds further and further towards the pole, until the ice-barrier, which almost girdles the Antarctic Continent, arrests further progress, since at its base the food-supply entirely ceases. This, too,

¹ Ornithological Results of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition.—III. On the Birds of the Weddell and adjacent Seas, Antarctic Ocean. By Wm. Eagle Clarke, F. R. S. E., F. L. S., The Royal Scottish Museum. Ibis, April, 1907, pp. 325-349, and map.

explains why our familiar Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*) passes the southern summer (our northern winter) amid these ever-icy seas."

The systematic list numbers 17 species, with extended comment on their distribution and habits. The only Tern previously recorded from this region is the well-known South American *Sterna hirundinacca*. But "when the 'Scotia' sailed from the South Orkneys she left the *Sterna hirundinacca* behind her. Other Terns were met with, often in considerable numbers, and specimens were fortunately obtained in widely scattered portions of the Weddell Sea. These, strange to say, I found to belong to the most northern representative of their genus, namely, to *Sterna macrura*, the Arctic Tern! Thus this familiar bird to British ornithologists would seem to have the most extensive latitudinal range to be found among vertebrate animals, since it is now known to occur from 82° N. to 74° 1' S. . . . They were often observed in considerable numbers, and are logged for March 5th, 1904, as being seen in thousands in 72° 31' S.; while from the 9th to the 13th of the same month, many were seen when off Coats Land, in 74° 1' S., 20° 0' W., . . . That it is only a winter visitor does not admit of doubt, for the bird certainly does not breed there; nor is any other Tern, so far as we know, a native of the Antarctic Continent." As is now well-known, somewhat reversed conditions occur in the case of the Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), which breeds in the Antarctic islands and wanders north in the northern summer to the North Atlantic.—J. A. A.

Goeldi's 'Album de Aves Amazonicas.'—Fasciculus III (pll. xxiv–xlviii) brings to a close this noteworthy supplement¹ of 48 colored plates, illustrating Dr. Goeldi's well-known 'Aves do Brazil,' published 1894–1900 (2 vols. 12mo). About 400 species are very successfully illustrated, by the tricolor process, for the most part with excellent results. They thus form a most desirable and valuable supplement to the text, from the point of view of not only the general reader, but the student of South American ornithology. We tender the author our sincere congratulations on the results thus so happily achieved.

Dr. Goeldi, after twenty years' residence in the American tropics, has retired from the active directorship of the great museum which so appropriately bears his name, it being mainly his own creation, returning to Switzerland, his native land, still in vigorous health, with, we trust, many years of scientific activity before him.—J. A. A.

¹ Museu Goeldi | (Museu Paraense) | de Historia Natural e Ethnographia | — | Album de Aves Amazonicas | organizado pelo Professor | Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi, | Director do mesmo Museu | — | Publicação iniciada por ordem de S. Ex^{cia} O S^{ur} D^r José Paes de Carvalho, | ex-governador | e continuada sob o Governo de S. Ex^{cia} O S^{ur} D^r Augusto Montenegro | — | Desenhos do S^{ur}. Ernesto Lohse, Desenhista-Lithographo do Museu Goeldi | — | Supplemento illustrativo a' obra "Aves do Brazil" | pelo Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi | Livraria classica de Alves & Cie, Rio de Janeiro, | 1894–1900 (2 volumes) | 1900–1906, — 4to, fasc. I, 1900, pll. 1–12; fasc. 2, 1902, pll. 13–24; fasc. 3, 1906, pll. 24–48. With title-page, contents, indexes, and directions for binding. Also excerpts (8 pp. 4to) from reviews and personal acknowledgments, etc.